

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 2, 15, 17, and 20 without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein.

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 6-9, 12, 14, 16, 18, 19, 21 and 22 to read as follows.

1. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus comprising:  
  
an imaging unit that converts an optical image into electronic image data;  
  
~~a monitor that displays an image based on electronic image data;~~  
  
a storage medium ~~storing~~ that stores electronic image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images; ~~[[and]]~~  
  
an operating member that selects one of the plurality of sample images;  
  
a monitor that displays images based on electronic image data, said monitor simultaneously displaying the sample image selected by said operating member and an object image based on the electronic image data;  
  
a switch that instructs the imaging apparatus to record the electronic image data obtained by said imaging unit in said storage medium; and  
  
a control circuit that saves in said storage medium the electronic image data such that the electronic image data is associated with the sample image displayed on said monitor according to an operation of said switch. ~~controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to simultaneously display on said monitor an object image corresponding to the optical image of said imaging unit and one of the plurality of sample images.~~

2. **(Canceled)**

3. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a second storage medium that stores electronic image data, wherein said control circuit ~~optionally~~ saves in said second storage medium the electronic image data such that the electronic image data ~~corresponding to the object image in the second storage medium such that the object image~~ is associated with the sample image ~~simultaneously~~ displayed ~~therewith~~ on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

4. **(Original)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said storage medium stores additional data associated with each of the plurality of sample images, the additional data including respective imaging conditions suitable for capturing the plurality of sample images.

5. **(Original)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein said control circuit controls an image capture operation of said imaging unit in accordance with the imaging condition included in the additional data associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed therewith on said monitor.

6. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising:

a reader that reads electronic image data corresponding to a sample image from an external storage medium; and

a selector that selects whether said control circuit controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to display on said monitor the sample image read from ~~[[the]]~~ said external storage medium or one of the plurality of sample images from ~~[[the]]~~ said storage medium.

7. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus comprising:

an imaging unit that converts an optical image into electronic image data;

~~a monitor that displays an image based on electronic image data;~~

a reader that reads ~~electronic image data corresponding to a plurality of sample image~~  
images from an external storage medium; ~~and~~

an operating member that selects one of the plurality of sample images;

a monitor that displays images based on electronic image data, the monitor displaying  
the sample image selected by said operating member and an object image based on the electronic  
image data simultaneously;

a switch that instructs to record the electronic image data obtained by said imaging  
unit on said external storage medium; and

a control circuit that saves in said external storage medium the electronic image data  
such that the electronic image data is associated with the sample image displayed on said monitor  
according to an operation of said switch. ~~controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to~~  
~~simultaneously display on said monitor the sample image and an object image corresponding to~~  
~~the optical image of said imaging unit.~~

8. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader is capable of writing data to ~~[[the]]~~ said external storage medium, and wherein said ~~controller~~ control circuit controls said reader so as to save in the external storage medium electronic image data such that the electronic image data ~~corresponding to the object image on the external storage medium such that the object image~~ is associated with the sample image displayed ~~simultaneously therewith~~ on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

9. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, further comprising a second storage medium that stores electronic image data, wherein said control circuit ~~optionally~~ saves in said second storage medium the electronic image data such that the electronic image data ~~corresponding to the object image on the second storage medium such that the object image~~ is associated with the sample image ~~simultaneously displayed therewith~~ on said monitor according to the operation of said switch.

10. **(Original)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader reads additional data associated with the sample image, the additional data including an imaging condition suitable for capturing the sample image.

11. **(Original)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 10, wherein said control circuit controls an image capture operation of said imaging unit in accordance with the imaging condition included in the additional data.

12. **(Currently Amended)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein said reader reads electronic image data corresponding to a plurality of sample images from ~~[[the]]~~ said external storage medium, and further reads additional data associated with the plurality of sample images, the additional data including respective imaging conditions suitable for capturing the plurality of sample images.

13. **(Original)** An imaging apparatus according to Claim 12, wherein said control circuit controls operation of said imaging apparatus so as to simultaneously display on said monitor the object image and one of the plurality of sample images, and controls an image capture operation of said imaging unit in accordance with the image condition included in the additional data associated with the sample image simultaneously displayed on said monitor.

14. **(Currently Amended)** A method of controlling an imaging apparatus, the method comprising:

- converting an optical image captured by an imaging unit into electronic image data;
- ~~displaying on a monitor an image corresponding to electronic image data;~~
- reading from ~~[[a]]~~ an external storage medium ~~electronic image data corresponding to~~
- a plurality of sample image; and images;
- selecting with an operating member one of the plurality of sample images;
- displaying on a monitor images based on electronic image data, the monitor
- simultaneously displaying the sample image selected in said selecting step and an object image
- based on the electronic image data;

instructing with a switch to record the electronic image data obtained by the imaging unit in the external storage medium; and

~~controlling said displaying step so as to simultaneously display on the monitor an object image corresponding to the optical image captured in said converting step and the sample image read from the storage medium in said reading step.~~

saving in the external storage medium the electronic image data such that the electronic image data is associated with the sample image displayed on the monitor according to said instructing step.

15. **(Canceled)**

16. **(Currently Amended)** A method of controlling an imaging apparatus according to Claim 14, ~~wherein said reading step further includes~~ comprising reading additional data from the storage medium, the additional data including an imaging condition associated with the sample image read from the storage medium, and ~~said control step further comprises~~ controlling an image capture operation of the imaging unit based on the additional data.

17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently Amended)** A method of controlling an imaging apparatus according to Claim 14, ~~wherein said reading step comprises~~ further comprising reading a sample image from among a plurality of sample images stored in a plurality of storage media.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A recording medium having recorded thereon computer-readable program code for controlling an imaging apparatus, the program code comprising:

first computer-readable program code for converting an optical image captured by an imaging unit into electronic image data;

~~second computer-readable program code for displaying on a monitor an image corresponding to electronic image data;~~

~~third~~ second computer-readable program code for reading from ~~[[a]]~~ an external storage medium ~~electronic image data corresponding to a plurality of sample image; and images;~~

third computer-readable program code for selecting one of the plurality of sample images;

fourth computer-readable program code for displaying on a monitor images based on electronic image data, the monitor simultaneously displaying the sample image selected and an object image based on electronic image data;

fifth computer-readable program code for instructing to record the electronic image data obtained by the imaging unit in the external storage medium; and

~~fourth computer-readable program code for controlling the imaging apparatus to simultaneously display on the monitor an object image corresponding to the optical image captured by the imaging unit and the sample image read from the storage medium~~

sixth computer-readable program code for saving in the external storage medium the electronic image data such that the electronic image data is associated with the sample image displayed on the monitor according to said fifth computer-readable program code.

20. **(Canceled)**

21. **(Currently Amended)** A recording medium according to Claim 19, the program code further comprising ~~sixth~~ seventh computer-readable program code for reading from the recording medium additional data associated with the sample image, the additional data including an imaging condition associated with the sample image read from the storage medium.

22. **(Currently Amended)** A recording medium according to Claim 19, wherein the ~~third~~ second computer-readable program code allows a sample image stored in a storage medium selected from a plurality of storage media to be read first.